

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 24, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

By means of the present amendment, claim 2 has been without prejudice and its features included in independent claim 1. Further, claims 4-5 have been re-written in independent form. Accordingly, no new issues requiring a new search have been introduced and entry of the present Amendment is respectfully

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 4-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 2 and 4-9 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 2 which has been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claims 4-5 have been rewritten in independent form.

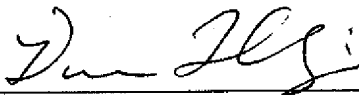
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and 4-5 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is

respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 6-12 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 4-5.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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